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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/590,072	08/21/2006	Gyula Czepek	84. 1010	8088
667	7590	01/10/2008		
JOSEPH G. SEEBER POST OFFICE BOX 750 GREAT FALLS, VA 22066			EXAMINER BARRY, CHESTER T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1797	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			01/10/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/590,072

Applicant(s)

CZEPEK ET AL.

Examiner

Chester T. Barry

Art Unit

1797

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 June 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 8-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 8-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 August 2006 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/14/07.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Objection is made to Fig 2 – Fig 8 for failure to present the drawing in the same orientation as the drawing label, e.g., “Fig. 2.” For example, rather than the upper figure with sideways orientation, the lower figure with landscape orientation would more appropriately disseminate the technical content of the application.

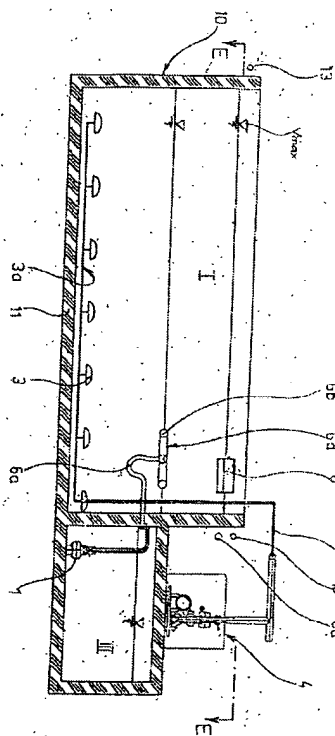


Fig. 2

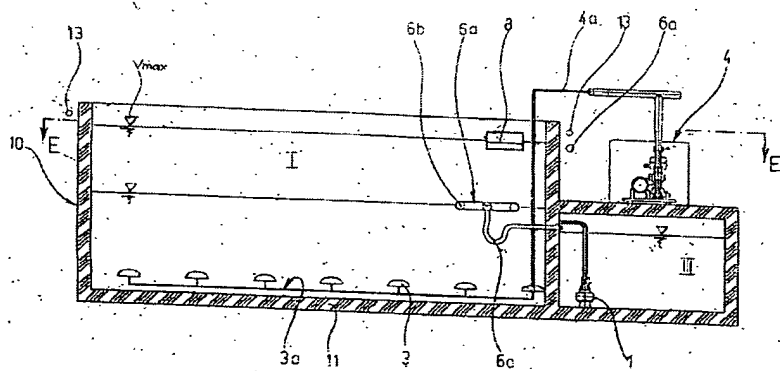


Fig. 2

Similar objections apply to Fig. 3 – 8.

Claims 8 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US 6190554 to Mandt. Mandt describes An equipment (apparatus) for the treatment of

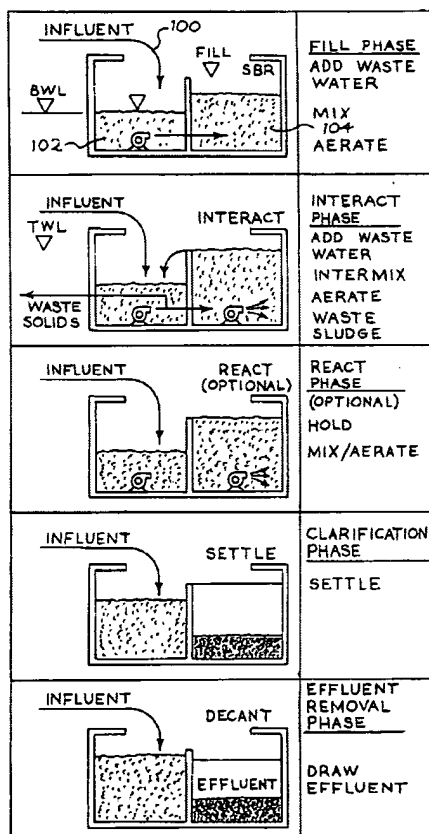


Fig. 1

wastewater which has a main reactor (104) and an anterior reactor (102) as well as facilities for feeding in untreated water, removing cleaned water and sludge (see also column 9, lines 56-66), aerating means in the main reactor (see column 9, lines 9-26), and a mixer in the anterior reactor (see column 7, lines 49-57). Between the main reactor and the anterior reactor there are facilities for the recirculation of wastewater (see column 8, lines 1-26). Mandt also discloses a process operating the apparatus described above in which (see fig. 1) in a filling phase the main reactor is filled up to a maximum level with sludge taken from the lower part of the anterior reactor; in a following reaction the main reactor is aerated while the wastewater is recirculated between the reactors: then the sludge is settled and the treated sewage is drained from the equipment by decanting (see also column 9, lines 27-55). The excess sludge is also removed from the reactors (see fig. 1).

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Claims 8 and 22 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by EP 1 099 668 A, US 6 398 957 B1, or DE 198 16 076 A1.

Claims 9 – 21 and 23 – 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over

Dependent claims 9 – 21, 23 – 24 do not appear to contain any additional features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of Sec 103(a) (nonobviousness) because those features have already been described in the cited document or can only be regarded as merely defining options, possibilities or normal design procedures that would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art.

CHESTER T. BARRY
PRIMARY EXAMINER

571-272-1152

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. Barry', with a long vertical line extending downwards from the end of the signature.